

STORM WATER

Interim Results for 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Roger Wilhelmsen
208-526-9401
rmw@inel.gov

This program monitors point source discharges of storm water from Department of Energy facilities to waters of the U.S. as required under the Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

The program covers parameters in storm water listed in the "Final Modification of the NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities" (General Permit). The INEEL implemented the analytical monitoring requirements of the 1998 General Permit starting January 1, 1999. The General Permit was reissued in October 2000, and the INEEL gained coverage under this permit in January 2001. The General Permit requires visual monitoring during the first, third, and fifth years of the permit's duration and both analytical and visual monitoring on the second and fourth years, and only when a qualifying storm has occurred. A qualifying storm is a rainstorm that has accumulated at least 0.25 cm (0.1 in.) of precipitation preceded by at least 72 hours without measurable precipitation (<0.25 cm [<0.1 in.]) to allow pollutants to build up then be flushed from the drainage basin.

In addition to the above-discussed NPDES permit-required monitoring, the program monitors storm water to deep injection wells to comply with State of Idaho injection well permits.

During the first quarter of 2004:

- No analytical samples were taken from the Test Area North (TAN) gravel pits because there were no qualifying rainstorms during the quarter.
- No analytical samples were required from the injection wells during the quarter. Analytical samples are only required when flow goes, or is likely to go, down an injection well.
- There were no permit noncompliances.

During the second quarter of 2004:

- Analytical samples were taken from both T-28 north locations (inflow and outflow) at the TAN gravel pits in response to a qualifying storm in April.
- Biannual visual inspections were performed in May of the seven deep injection wells. No analytical samples were required from the injection wells during the quarter. Analytical samples were only required when flow goes, or is likely to go, down an injection well.
- There were no permit noncompliances.